The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Genius is only the superior power of seeing.—Ruskin.

WHOLE NO. 1108. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1932 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 22, NO. 17.

Unemployment Insurance

Spencer Miller, Jr., secretary of the Workers' Education Bureau of America, told the University of Michigan Institute of Labor that prior to the depression from 1,200,000 to 2,000,000 workers were "normally" unemployed in the United States. He also predicted that after the depression ends—if it ever does—around 3,000,000 will be "normally" and permanently unemployed unless the hours of labor are drastically shortened.

By "normally" unemployed Mr. Miller undoubtedly meant the number of jobless under conditions which obtain when those who own and control our industrial, commercial, and financial institutions conduct their businesses "as usual" with maximum profits for the owners and scant regard for the interests of labor.

The figures cited by Mr. Miller were interpreted in some quarters to imply the necessity for unemployment insurance. They imply nothing of the sort.

Unemployment, whether "normal" or "abnormal" is caused by the refusal of employers to adjust the number of work hours per week to accord with the increased output of labor under machine production. As the increased output per worker enables fewer workers to produce a certain unit of commodities, reason dictates that the working hours for all the workers should be reduced so as to keep them all earning wages. But employers apply the unreasonable policy of discharging some workers and making the remainder work as many hours per week as did the larger number. This employer policy is the cause of unemployment.

Unemployment insurance advocates say the jobless workers, created by the will of the employer, shall be supported on starvation rations during their idleness. This scheme perpetuates unemployment. It sets up two groups of workers with two living standards. One group with relatively steady employment will be able to buy a good living for themselves and their families. The other group, the insured jobless, will be compelled to live on the disgustingly low standards imposed by the disgustingly low benefits paid them from insurance funds.

Labor abhors unemployment insurance. Labor abhors any institution that will perpetuate unemployment.

Labor demands that unemployment shall be prevented, not perpetuated.

Unemployment can be prevented by making the work week and work day short enough to put all the ten millions of jobless to work and keep them short enough so that all the workers shall be employed in the future.

Shortening the work week and work day to end unemployment is thoroughly unreasonable.

Unemployment insurance to perpetuate unemployment is thoroughly unreasonable.

Job Insecurity and Low Wages

During the present business depression most college and university professors have maintained silence from the point of view of criticizing our economic order under which employers have thrown over 10,000,000 workers into the unemployed army and drastically reduced the wages of millions more kept at work.

It is therefore refreshing to find Prof. Arthur E. Wood of the University of Michigan pulling away the smoke screen of the apologists and blurting out the truth that "insecurity of the job and low wages are a normal aspect of our industrial system."

He said that unemployment so greatly increased during the depression is seriously injuring home security, with jobless workers compelled to ask charity organizations to care for their families.

Prof. Wood added that "one service of the present depression will be to throw the high light of criticism upon the industrial order that makes such ravages into the family life of the people."

Criticism amounts to nothing unless it results in the application of tangible remedies to cure things criticized.

Labor criticizes both normal and abnormal unemployment and low wages. Labor also presents remedies to end these evils.

To remedy unemployment, labor demands that the length of the work week and work day shall be decreased to whatever extent necessary to provide jobs for all the jobless.

To remedy low wages, labor demands that minimum rates shall be high enough to enable the poorest workers in the poorest industries to earn a living.

The autocrats who own and control industry, if they had the will to do it could make labor's job and wage policies effective in short order. So far they have quite generally refused to do so.

Labor refuses to permit charity standards of existence to be set up permanently in the United States for millions of the unemployed.

Labor also refuses to permit the living standards of those who are employed to be permanently reduced by part-time work and low pay.

The shorter work week and work day and higher wages must come. It is dangerous to let them be longer delayed. Labor will not consent to live forever on the garbage can standards of public and private charity. The employers should not wait until the degradation of millions of our workers leads them to the borderland of revolt.

Stabilizing Poverty by Cheap Housing

It cannot be truthfully denied that the working people produce the most of our wealth. Despite this, it is a well-authenticated fact that they are unable to appropriate but a small portion of it. By far the larger portion is taken by those who own industry, as represented by dividends and interest.

The reason labor receives so little is because its purchasing power is arbitrarily limited by those who own the opportunities and thus fix wages. This is the general policy except where it is modified by strong trade unions.

By the ruthless exercise of this arbitrary power, employers force wages far below the point best for decent living standards.

Socially constructive forces endeavor to raise the living standards of the workers to ever higher points so that they may enjoy more of the material good life.

Socially destructive forces endeavor to lower the workers' living requirements and thus perpetuate their poverty.

The socially destructive forces are responsible for the new cheap housing plan recently launched by a New York corporation.

The corporation plans that the present type of small houses for urban families, costing from $6,000 to $8,000, with monthly interest and amortization charges of $60 a month, and that 50 per cent of the workers cannot afford to pay this price. It is therefore planned to produce ready-made steel houses that will sell for $4,000.

The employers first degrade wages below decent living standards, and then hire engineers to produce housing in conformity with these standards. This tends to perpetuate the low wages.

Social progress does not consist in lowering wages so that the workers cannot afford decent houses and then evolving cheap houses to correspond to the compulsory lowered living standards.

Social progress consists in raising wages so that the workers can buy good houses for themselves and their families.

If 50 per cent of urban families cannot buy houses costing from $6,000 to $8,000, the progressive remedy is not to produce houses that may be sold at a profit for $4,000.

The remedy is to mobilize science and public opinion to see the necessity of employers raising their reactionary wage standards to the point where the $6,000 or $8,000 houses can be purchased without undue sacrifice.

Wage Earners and Bankruptcy

Bankruptcy laws are designed to legally discharge insolvent debtors from paying their debts. They are used by all classes of business men who are unable to meet their obligations.

But the very business men who rely on the institution of bankruptcy to settle claims against them for a few cents on the dollar oppose financially distressed working people who make a similar mechanism to wipe out legal responsibility for their debts.

The attempt to convey the idea that there is something disgraceful about a worker availing himself of the bankruptcy laws is frequently used by those who wish to limit the advantages of them to business.

The idea of disgrace was recently developed by Mr. Lloyd K. Garrison, dean of the law school of the University of Wisconsin, at the meeting of the National Credit Association in Chicago. He urged workers who ran into debt to the Credit Association to avoid the alleged disgrace attached to bankruptcy proceedings Mr. Garrison evolved the scheme of permitting them a special extension of time in which to do it.

Mr. Garrison explained that this "suspended discharge feature" gives the workers two years "to make good their obligations and in the end receive final discharge without having been in the meantime stigmatized with the odious term bankrupt."

Workers who are unable to pay their debts should not be influenced by this sort of propaganda against their making use of the bankruptcy laws. There is really no disgrace attached to them. They are specifically designed to enable honest but unfortunate debtors to receive legal discharge from obligation to pay. There are no other citizens to receive legal discharge from obligation to pay debts in excess of their financial ability and begin their life over again.

In the severe strain of distress caused by prolonged unemployment millions of workers find themselves unable to meet their obligations.

Often they have been the victims of unscrupulous promoters of various sorts.

Frequently they have fallen into the claws of loan sharks.

They should make use of bankruptcy laws to free themselves from the consequences of these mistakes or misfortunes and be legally discharged from all obligation to pay debts they are unable to pay and which stand in the way of their providing decent living standards for themselves and their families, both now and in the future.

"Capable" Business Leaders

Thomas J. Watson, president of the International Business Machines Corporation, declares that "the business of the country, our railroads, our industrial institutions and our financial institutions, are in capable hands."

The "capable" hands referred to by Mr. Watson are the officials who manage our business concerns.

Under our industrial system, work opportunities are owned as a private monopoly by the men who own our business establishments.

The workers can live only by selling their ability to produce wealth and perform services for the work opportunity owners.

To provide these work opportunities is the major moral function of business. During the last two and one-half years those who own and control business have refused to provide these work opportunities for over ten million workers, and have reduced them and their families, numbering over thirty million persons, to the near starvation living standards imposed by private and public charity.

With this record of stupendous managerial incapacity, striking at the very life of our institutions, even the president of the International Business Machines Corporation must be deaf, dumb, and blind to refer to our business leaders as "capable." Modern industrial history does not contain a more striking illustration of complete executive bankruptcy.

Republican Party Convention Declarations on Labor Matters

Planks Favor Federal Credit to States and Federal Public Works for Unemployment Relief, Shorter Work Day and Work Week, Advance Planning of Public Works, State Unemployment Insurance and Old-Age Pensions, Repeal of Eighteenth Amendment, Amendment of Volstead Act to Legalize Beer, and Amendment of Antitrust Laws to Protect Labor and Small Business.

Chicago.—The planks of direct interest to labor in the platform adopted by the national Convention of the Democratic party include recommendations for Federal unemployment relief, reduction in hours of labor, advance planning of public works, repeal of the prohibition amendment, modification of the Volstead Act to legalize the manufacture and sale of beer and similar beverages, old-age and unemployment insurance, and amendment of the antitrust laws in the interest of labor and small business concerns.

The text of the planks follows:

Unemployment

The only hope for improving present conditions, particularly employment, affording permanent relief to the people, and bringing the United States to the former proud position of domestic happiness and of financial, industrial, agricultural and commercial leadership in the world lies in a drastic change in economic and governmental policies.

Unemployment Relief

Extension of Federal credit to the States to provide unemployment relief wherever the diminishing revenues of the States make it impossible for them adequately to provide the needed relief, the Federal program of necessary and useful construction affected with a public interest, such as flood control and waterways, including the St. Lawrence Great Lakes deep waterways.

Shorter Hours

The spread of employment by a substantial reduction in the hours of labor, the encouragement of the shorter week by applying that principle in Government service; advance planning of public works.

Unemployment Insurance and Old-Age Pensions

Unemployment and old-age insurance under State laws.

Prohibition Amendment

We favor the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment.

To effect such repeal, we demand that the Congress immediately propose a constitutional amendment to the people, to be submitted to conventions in the States called to act solely on that proposal.

We urge the enactment of such measures by the several States as will actually promote temperance, effectively prevent the return of the saloon, and bring the liquor traffic into the open and completely destroy the power and control by the States.

We demand that the Federal Government effectively exercise its power to enable the States to effectually protect themselves against importation of intoxicating liquors in violation of their laws.

Volstead Act Amendment

Pending repeal, we favor immediate modification of the Volstead Act to permit the manufacture and sale of beer and other beverages of such alcoholic content as is permissible under the Constitution and to provide therefrom a proper and needed revenue.

Antitrust Laws

Strict and impartial enforcement of the antitrust laws to prevent monopoly and unfair trade practices, and revision thereof for the better protection of labor and the small packer and distributor.

Trade Unions Exercise Large Influence on Public Opinion

Matthew Woll Says Organized Labor Reflects Its Views in All Departments of American Life and Action.

New York.—Local unions, city central bodies, state federations, trade organizations, the labor press, public schools, institutes of labor, political campaigns, and various business, fraternal, educational, scientific and church bodies are among the instrumentalities used by the organized workers to convey their ideas to the people, declared Matthew Woll, third vice president of the American Federation of Labor, in a radio address over the United States network on "How Labor Shapes Public Opinion."

Labor Impresses Popular Will

"Viewed from one standpoint," Mr. Woll said, "the aim is to assert that the whole purpose and function of the labor movement is to shape public opinion—to articulate the aspirations of labor and to win the public to their support. The success which labor has had in impressing its mentality on the public mind will be seen if one looks at the growth of our national life.

"It is clear that the means employed by labor and the ends pursued have made a deep and lasting impression, not only on the popular will, but in our social and political institutions.

"One may argue as to whether the instrumentalities of labor have been as effective as they might have been. This is speculation. But it is a matter of fact that labor has helped to shape public opinion in this land in a positive and important manner.

"Because its aims and purposes have been the growth of American soil, the instruments of activities have been for the advancement of the nation.

Labor's Instrumentalities

In describing the various instrumentalities which the trade union movement uses to make public its principles, Mr. Woll said, in part:

"The potency of the local union as one center in formulating public opinion in America will be appreciated when it is recalled that there are approximately thirty thousand of these local unions spread widely throughout the country in every State of the Union, in every industrial center, and indeed in many communities where there are not enough people to justify the quality an urban center.

"Every one of these local unions meets at least once a month, a good many meet twice a month, and some of them meet once a week. Here are carried on discussions of local interest and economic and industrial conditions, about matters of local government and education, and a host of such other matters. For the workingman the local union is his classroom and training center.

City Central Bodies

"The City Central Union, which is a coordinating agency of the local unions in a municipality, provides, in turn, an open forum for the consideration of matters pertaining to municipal affairs. Here we find discussion on a somewhat broader basis. The nine hundred City Central bodies in the land provide an important focus of labor thinking on municipal problems.

State Conventions

"Then the State Federations of Labor, likewise, with their legislative and educational functions, and their annual meetings and conferences, provide for a State-wide consideration of economic and political problems.

"In addition, the annual conventions of the National and International Unions similarly provide a national outlook on these problems.

"As a culmination of these forums is the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor which considers not only matters pertaining to labor, but also questions of public interest.

"Here we have a real Parliament of Labor. No question is alien to its consideration, whether of national or international import. It is in fact an incomparable school of political science.

Labor Press

"Today the labor press constitutes one of the distinguishing characteristics of the modern labor movement. The labor press has a very great work to perform. Its business is to get before the people the real news of the truths about living and working.

"The metropolitan press is largely a commercial undertaking—for it, living and working are materials for newspaper stories that appeal to popular interests. For the labor press the point is to make truths about living and working known to every one. These truths have the power to move and overthrow governments.

"There are today in this country no less than 400 labor papers, some privately owned, some partially owned and controlled by labor, and some entirely owned by labor.

Public Schools

"But labor seeks to shape public opinion, not only through the medium of its own organization and its own agencies, but also by contact with our various business, fraternal, educational, scientific and church bodies.

"It early realized that the public schools of America would play an increasing role in shaping public opinion. It sought to have the doors opened to the children of all the citizens. It championed a high standard of instruction.

"It examined the content of the school text-books to see that there was an appropriate recognition given to labor's part in our national life. It sought membership on Boards of Education to help thus indirectly in shaping public opinion.

Institutes of Labor

"Labor has set up on the campuses of our universities Institutes of Labor, where in cooperation with these institutions an opportunity is provided to consider together these questions of public interest and labor's attitude toward them.

"The general purpose of these meetings is to enable a selected group of persons in the field of labor, as well as some engaged in the field of education, to study and exchange information and ideas on this vital issue. No special explanations are urged, and no decisions are proposed; the aim is purely one of discussion and enlightenment.

Political Campaigns

"In this country the political campaign has been a direct method of fashioning the popular will on public questions. It is also a method of arousing interest on questions of public importance.

"Labor has encouraged an interest of its members in government. Labor has always been in politics. It has developed, however, a method of nonpartisan political action which preserves the integrity of the union, but at the same time focuses public attention upon both measures and candidates.

"This policy pursued by labor in local and national politics bears directly on public opinion. It has been found to be an effective and practical measure for labor to record its concept of the standard of public policy."

"It was no accident," Mr. Woll concluded "that the American Federation of Labor was founded upon the historical principle of our national Government; it was by design.

"It is similarly no accident that the process of educating the popular will in labor is the democratic process of representation, which is the basis of our Government which rests upon consent.

"It is but fair to say that the excellence of public opinion—its good sense, its tolerance, and its pervasive activity is the real test of a nation's capacity for self government, so the power it has is the best guarantee of popular government.

"Toward that excellence of public opinion labor has developed its activities and has shaped its policies."

Federal $500 Loans for Jobless Heads of Families Proposed

Cleveland.—The Railway Labor Executives, made up of the heads of 21 railroad labor organizations, urged Congress to provide for emergency loans of not more than $500 to unemployed heads of families so that they might help the necessities of life.

The financing would be done by a Federal agency similar to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation which makes loans to banks, railroads, insurance companies, and other property-owning concerns in need of help.

$300,000,000 ALLOTTED FOR DIRECT RELIEF

Washington.—Senate and House conferees on the Wagner $2,300,000,000 unemployment relief bill reached an agreement on the $300,000,000 direct relief provision, of which $100,000,000 will be allocated to the President to dispose of to relieve the needy and unemployed as he sees fit, and $200,000,000 of which is to be extended to the States in loans on a population basis.

Senator Norbeck, chairman of the conferees, stated that an agreement had not been reached on the bond issue provision of $500,000,000 public construction, and the question of loans to private corporations. It was stated that if President Hoover ran true to form he would veto the entire relief measure unless the bond issue were eliminated. The conferees were attempting to reach an agreement which would satisfy the Senate and House sponsors of the bond issue and at the same time reduce the President's opposition to the point where he would sign the bill without too much sacrifice of his theory against borrowing money for Federal relief.

LABOR-DISPLACING MACHINES IN ROAD AND DITCH WORK

One Man Does Work of 44—Employers Impose Long Hours With Machinery and Throw Millions Into Unemployed Army.

Washington.—Striking instances of the extent to which employers use labor-displacing machinery to throw the workers into the unemployed army are given in a survey of the increased efficiency used by various types of machinery in road building and ditch digging made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor.

One man and a helper with a ditch digging machine can do as much work in an hour as 44 men using hand shovels in the same time.

One man operating a compressor machine used in street rebuilding is now the first break in the pavement, can do it less than 15 minutes the work it would take a gang using a hand pick and sledge hammer two hours to perform.

One man operating the same machine can clean the surface of nearly three miles of pavement in an hour—work done in the same time by hand labor.

The labor-displacing machinery is daily thrusting the last few years, and the refusal of employers to reduce the working hours and spread work work are responsible for a considerable portion of the unemployed army now numbering over ten million.

FRENCH COMPENSATION LAWS COVER WORKERS' CHILDREN

Paris, France.—A new French labor law gives large protection for the children of the workers in the form of family allowances.

The law requires every employer in agriculture, industry, commerce, and liberal professions to become a member of a compensation fund or similar institution. This institution is necessary for the operation of the system.

Under the act allowances are provided for any child dependent on the worker or salaried employe up to the age of fourteen. The child is then continuing its studies or has entered apprenticeship, the allowance is continued to the age of 18. The number of daily allowances must equal the number of days of work performed. In the event of temporary or permanent disability or in case of death resulting from an accident, the allowance must be paid in full.

The Minister of Labor in each department will determine the rate of the allowance for each child either for all professions together or for each occupational group.

Social Service Cuts Hit Mothers, Mrs. Bevin Says

London, Eng.—If properly organized, working women could force real revolutions in social and working conditions, Mrs. Ernest Bevin told the annual meeting of the Women's Guild associated with the Transport and General Workers' Union.

"Women are the greatest sufferers from the economic pressure inflicted on men," she said, and the reduction in unemployment benefit intensified the problem of the mother who has to try to keep her husband and children fed.

She deplored Government economy through cuts in the social services, and education, which created bitter disappointment for the children.

"Their ambitions for their children are thwarted and destroyed," she added, "while probably the most disappointing thing of all is to save and strive and to go without oneself the little amenities and joys of life to educate the children and keep them in school, and then to find no one need for their services."

Mrs. Bevin is the wife of Ernest Bevin, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Compulsory Planning Urged To Reconstruct Industry

Forest Park, Pa.—Dr. Paul Blanchard, executive director of the City Affairs Committee of New York, told the annual summer convention of the Pennsylvania State Chamber of Commerce that planning dominated by those who own and control industry is the only system that can come too late to save it. He said the plan of Gerard Swope, president of the General Electric Company, "would lead straight to American Fascism," but unless a planning movement existed to curb the power of the gigantic trusts."

"Compulsory Government planning," he added, "is essential to effect any reconstruction of the business system, but can trust the private capitalists to do their own planning because their interests are a class interest. We need a national planning agency with the interests of the workers and consumers represented."

Coal Mine Companies Face Compulsory Amalgamation

London, Eng.—The Coal Mines Reorganization Commission told British coal owners that they must get together and produce definite schemes for amalgamation the Commission would take steps to prepare plans for compulsory adoption.

The Commission favors voluntary amalgamations, but has but slight hope of their general application. The Commission pointed out that the officials of the profitable mines feel they will be merged with less profitable ones.

Green Urges Broad Labor Planks To Secure Justice for the Workers

President of American Federation of Labor Asks Democrats to Favor Five-Day Week, Shorter Work Day, Federal Unemployment Relief, Volstead Act Amendment to Legalize 2.75 Per Cent Beer, and Antitrust Laws Revision to Protect Labor from Conspiracy Features—11,000,000 Are Unemployed —Labor-Displacing Machines Have Destroyed Millions of Jobs

Chicago.—Industrial conditions in the United States are growing worse with the largest number of unemployed in history, declared William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in urging the Democratic Resolutions Committee to incorporate organized labor's recommendations in the Democratic platform.

Eleven Million Jobless

"Our preliminary estimate of unemployment shows at least 10,500,000 out of employment," he said. "Trade union figures for the first part of June show the largest increase this year. Applying them to industry generally would indicate that at least 200,000 more have been thrown out of work since May.

"Farm work has provided some jobs, but unquestionably the number now out of work is over 11,000,000."

Mr. Green stressed the fact that unemployment among trade unions members in June ran from 18 per cent in the printing trades to 63 per cent in the building trades.

Public Unaware of Crisis

"The public seems entirely unconscious of the growing catastrophe that is upon us," Mr. Green continued. "Unemployment has been increasing this Spring at a rate unprecedented even in the years of distress we have already been through. From January to May, 1932, well over a million men and women have been thrown out of work in industry. The rate of increase this year has been considerably more than twice that of 1930 or 1931.

"While farm work has given temporary employment to several hundred thousand this spring, this should not obscure the fundamental changes indicated by these figures.

Machines Destroy Millions of Jobs

"Several million jobs are gone forever due to labor-saving machinery. This is the significant fact which has an immediate bearing on our future industrial progress.

"Unless work hours are shortened to create jobs, millions will be permanently without employment and dependent upon charity. His huge loss of buying power will cripple our factories, mines, railroads, and stores. Already consumer buying has dropped to less than three-quarters of normal."

Mr. Green told the committee that organized labor favored revision of the antitrust laws to remove labor from the conspiracy features of these acts. He said the enactment of the Norris-La Guardia anti-injunction law by the present Congress did not go far enough.

Unemployment Relief

Members of the Committee manifested keen interest in Labor's proposals for Federal unemployment relief. Mayor Walker of New York, William G. McAdoo and A. Mitchell Palmer questioned Mr. Green about them.

"You urge that the Federal Government lend money to cities and establish a reservoir of funds that can be used in the future to encourage public construction," asked Mayor Walker.

"Yes, that is our idea," replied Mr. Green.

"If the same aggregate wages were paid as now and the work day shortened would this increase employment greatly?" asked Mr. Palmer.

"Yes, about 50 per cent," Mr. Green said.

"You want the Federal Government to extend financial aid to the States and cities?" interrogated Mr. McAdoo.

"Yes, if necessary," Mr. Green replied, "but only when conditions show it to be absolutely essential to keep municipal activities going."

"Has Labor taken any position on the payment of adjusted compensation to World War veterans?" asked Mr. McAdoo.

"No; it has not felt that it would be proper; that is in the hands of the American Legion," he replied.

Volstead Act Amendment

In closing his argument for labor's suggestions, Mr. Green made an appeal that the platform pledge modification of the Volstead Act.

"I know," he said, "that sentiment is increasing for the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment. But this will take considerable time to accomplish.

"We want the Volstead Act modified immediately. If this were done it would give employment to men and women employment in the breweries. It has another further advantage. The Government would have bonds for three works in anticipation of the tax from beer. The tax would raise about $500,000,000 annually."

Labor's Platform Recommendations

The following is the complete list of recommendations which Mr. Green urged the Committee on Resolutions to incorporate in the Democratic platform:

Amendment of the antitrust laws in the interest of industry, labor, and the farmers.

Enactment of the Davis-Kelly bill for the stabilization of the bituminous coal industry.

Recognition of labor's right to organize into trade unions.

Opposition to compulsory labor.

Guarantee of free speech, press, and assembly.

The five-day work week and shorter work day in both Government and private industry.

Federal appropriations for public works to relieve unemployment.

Continuation of vocational training and education.

Maintenance of public school efficiency.

Development of a national employment service.

Federal appropriations for the direct relief of unemployment.

Continuance of immigration restrictions.

Application of Federal measures for economic relations with Canada.

Extension of Federal workmen's compensation.

Adequate appropriations for the Department of Labor and its bureaus.

Maintenance of high wage standards for Government employes.

Federal financial assistance to States for old-age pensions about them.

Liberal retirement laws for Federal employes.

Amendment of the Volstead Act to legalize beer containing 2.75 per cent alcohol.

Encouragement of home building and home ownership.

Maintenance of income, estate and inheritance taxes.

Opposition to the sales tax.

Hoover Signs Payless Furlough Bill; Federal Employes Get 8 Per Cent Cut

Includes All Employes Earning in Excess of $1,000—Suspends Pay Increases, Promotions, and Overtime Pay—Forces Withdrawal of Those Who Have Reached Retirement Age, Reduces Annual Vacation to 15 Days, Limits Filling of Vacancies, and Compels Discharge of Husband or Wife When Both Are Employed.

Washington.—The economy bill, containing drastic pay cuts for Federal employes, became a law by the signature of President Hoover.

The pay cut is effected by means of a payless furlough of one month a year. This amounts to an 8.3 per cent slash in the salaries of all Government employes receiving $1,000 or more per annum.

The measure contains many contradictory clauses capable of being used to victimize Government workers. Attempts will be made to remedy them temporarily by administrative rulings and permanently by legislative action during the next session of Congress, which convenes in December.

Provisions Affecting U. S. Employes

The economy law contains the following provisions vitally affecting Government employes:

Federal workers earning in excess of $1,000 will be placed on a one-month payless furlough. Where this will not apply, a pay cut, ranging from 8.3 per cent between $1,000 and $10,000, to 20 per cent on over $20,000, will be substituted.

Automatic pay increases and promotions within grades will be suspended for one year.

Where married couples are employed in the Federal service, husband or wife will be the first discharged.

Pay for overtime work, including work on Sundays and holidays, will be immediately suspended, except where workers now receiving a 10 per cent night pay differential will be paid at the rate of 5 per cent.

No vacancies will be filled in the Federal service without written consent of the President.

Workers reaching the retirement age will be forced to withdraw from the service unless extensions are expressly granted by the President.

Retired military officers holding civilian positions will not be permitted to draw in excess of $3,000, including pensions.

Annual leave with pay will be permanently reduced to fifteen days. The furlough plan makes this inoperative for a year.

Heads of departments are given authority to retire workers for indefinite periods to keep within appropriations.

Retirement pay will be based on the annual rate of pay before salary reductions, and deductions made accordingly.

Money saved from operation of the furlough plan will not be applied to retaining workers in office, as originally proposed, but will go into the Treasury.

It is estimated that the furlough plan of pay reduction will cost the Government employes from $80,000,000 to $90,000,000 per year.

Labor's Work Day and Work Week

Certain so-called "progressives" and "radical" critics of organized labor's shorter labor policy declare that the five-day week would not provide work for all of the jobless.

This criticism indicates either a misunderstanding or a willful misstatement of labor's policy.

Labor proclaims the right of every able-bodied person in the United States to a job.

Labor demands that to secure this right the length of the work week and work day must be decreased to whatever extent may be necessary to accomplish this purpose.

Labor desires to see the five-day week universally applied with the hours per day lowered to whatever extent may be required to absorb all the unemployed.

It may be necessary to reduce the length of the work day to six hours, five hours, or even four hours.

Work for all is Labor's principle. The days of labor per week and the hours of labor per day must be adjusted to make this principle a living reality.